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JAPAN

Mar. 8, 1960

PRESS EVALUATES KHRUSHCHEV'S ASIA, TOUR

Tokyo, in English to the West Godge of North America and Hawaii, Mar. 5, 1960, 0530 GMT--T (UNCLASSIFIED)

(Excerpts) Editorials concerning Premier Khrushchev were prominent during the week. One MAINICHI editorial dealt with Khrushchev's speech in Jakarta critizing the Japanese Government. Other editorials commented on the Soviet leader's Asian tour.

In a speech to the Indonesian Parliament on Feb. 26 Premier Khrushchev criticized Japan for signing the new security treaty with the United States and warned that Japan was playing a dangerous game by doing so. MAINICHI called the Khrushchev criticism unjust and also a discourtesy to Indonesia, saying: Japan has friendly economic and diplomatic relations with Indonesia. It was in the Parliament of this nation that the Soviet Premier criticized Japan and made remarks apparently designed to arouse groundless doubts about Japan. Such conduct is discourteous to both Japan and Indonesia. Radio Indonesia, in reporting the Khrushchev speech, omitted the reference to Japan. We admire Indonesia for showing this courtesy and good sense.

MAINICHI pointed out that the Soviet Union has a huge military force in the Far East as well as an alliance with the People's Republic of China, which regards Japan as a potential enemy. The editorial said that if Mr. Khrushchev can say Japan is not faced with any danger despite this Soviet military force and the Moscow-Peking treaty, Japan can also say that its new security treaty with the United States is defensive in nature and there is no reason for Russia to criticize it.

Speculating that the Soviet Union is apparently trying to draw such countries as India and Indonesia into the Soviet camp, the MAINICHI editorial added: It occurs to us that Mr. Khrushchev's speech to the Indonesian Parliament was designed to make Indonesia cautious toward Japan and thereby block economic links between the two countries, while strengthening Russia's, own relations with Indonesia. If this were not so, why must the Soviet Premier go all the way to Indonesia to criticize Japan? In conclusion, MAINICHI said Khrushchev's remarks about Japan in his Jakar to speech go against the spirit of friendly relations enough the notions of the world.

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- LLL 2 - JAPAN Mar. 8, 1960

Also commenting on Khrushchev's Asian tour, YOMTURI recalled that there had been wide speculation before Khrushchev left on his visit to India, Burma, and Indonesia that his chief aim was to gain their support for his policies at the East-West summit conference in May and on disarmament issues. The editorial added: As far as the disarmament problem is concerned, it would be only natural for the neutralist countries of Southeast Asia to express approval of almost any disarmament plan. But this does not necessarily mean that they are committed to the Russian approach alone. Whatever undercurrents there might be, however, it is surely undeniable that Premier Khrushchev has scored a considerable success during the gourse of his tour.

U.S. Aid Compared with USSR's

As far as economic aid is concerned, Mr. Khrushchev reaffirmed Russia's intention of granting a 378 million-dollar loan to India. A 250 million-dollar loan agreement was also concluded with Indonesia. American economic aid to India thus far amounts to 1.7 billion dollars. However, Soviet economic aid generally has better conditions than U.S. aid. Especially in a country like Indonesia, which has rejected U.S. aid, Soviet assistance has considerable power. The Soviets, therefore, are expected to try to strengthen their influence through continued economic assistance.

YOMIURI said that perhaps the most important issue to come out of Khrushchev's tour is: How will he deal with the growing Southeast Asian demand to participate in summit talks? YOMIURI said it would be interesting to see how Premier Khrushchev will fulfill the commitments he is reported to have made to the Southeast Asian nations.

MAINICHI's editorial on the Khrushchev tour emphasized its relation to the People's Republic of China. If Khrushchev has succeeded in adjusting, if indirectly, the relations between Peking and India, Burma and Indonesia, his visit has been significant, MAINICHI said.

DEFENSE CHIEF REPORTS ON USSR FORCES

Tokyo, KYODO, in English, Mar. 7, 1960, Evening Edition--T (UNCLASSIFIED)

(Text) Tokyo, Mar. 7--The Soviet Union has a land force of 35 divisions comprising 450,000 officers and men in the Far East, Munenori Akagi, director general of the Defense Board, said at the upper house budget committee meeting today. Discussing the military strength of Japan's neighboring countries, Akagi said that the Soviets have a naval force of 600 craft totaling 500,000 tons, of which 110 vessels are submarines, and an air force of 4,200 planes.